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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/882,486	06/15/2001	Jay H. Connelly	042390P11861	8023

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EXAMINER

SALCE, JASON P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/882,486	Applicant(s) CONNELLY, JAY H.	
	Examiner Jason P. Salce	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15,32-37,53-56 and 77-79 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15,32-37,53-56 and 77-79 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/01, 11/05, 106</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-15, 32-37, 53-56 and 77-79 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 6/15/2001, 11/14/2005, 1/3/2006 and 1/23/2006 were filed after the filing date of the instant application and mailing date of the previous Office Action. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 10, 12-13, 32, 34-35, 77 and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931) in view of Seidman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,482).

Referring to claim 10, Alexander discloses receiving, at a client, content descriptors, which describe pieces of content available for future broadcast from a server (see Column 8, Lines 18-35 for downloading EPG information that provides

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television program information which describes various types of television programs and also note Column 4, Lines 54-56 for the EPG providing television program listings at future times).

Alexander also discloses generating demand data at the client (see Column 28, Lines 30-52 for recording every action a user makes when interacting with an EPG) indicating the relative desirability of the pieces of content described by the content descriptors (the examiner notes that when recording the user interactions (see again Column 28, Lines 30-52) channel changes, time of the channel change and the identification of what programming was displayed after channel change all represent that the demand data (viewer profile information collected) indicates the relative desirability of the pieces of content (television programs) described by the content descriptors (EPG information)).

Alexander also discloses sending demand data feedback from the client to the server after the demand data related to the pieces of content is generated (see Column 29, Lines 14-21 for sending the viewer profile information to the headend (server) of the television system), the demand data feedback to indicate the relative desirability of the pieces of content available for future broadcast (again note that the viewer profile contains information representing user interactions (see again Column 28, Lines 30-52) such as channel changes, time of the channel change and the identification of what programming was displayed after channel change, which all represent that the demand data feedback (viewer profile information collected and transmitted back to the

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headend) indicates the relative desirability of the pieces of content (television programs) described by the content descriptors (EPG information)).

Although Alexander discloses that viewer profile information can be transmitted from the client to the server (see Column 29, Lines 14-21) and that the viewer profile information is updated on an ongoing basis (see Column 29, Lines 23-24), Alexander fails to teach sending the demand data feedback from the client to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content is generated.

Seidman discloses a viewer profile information collection process similar to Alexander (see Column 6, Lines 1-8). The collection process additionally provides the functionality of reporting the viewer profile to the headend after a predetermined amount of time (see Column 6, Lines 38-44), therefore, Seidman clearly teaches sending demand data feedback from the client to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content is generated, where the predetermined amount is the amount of demand data (viewer profile information) collected in the predetermined time period.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the demand data collection and transmission process, as taught by Alexander, using the process of determining a predetermined amount of content generated in a predetermined time period, as taught by Seidman, for the purpose of allowing a headend to further determine the status of the user's equipment and to diagnose problems (see Column 6, Lines 57-59 of Seidman).

Claim 12 corresponds to claim 10, where Alexander teaches that the generation of demand data related to the pieces of content described by the content descriptors (see the rejection of claim 10) comprises receiving explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content (see Column 28, Lines 30-52 for the user changing a channel or any interaction with the EPG, which all represent an explicit user input regarding the specific pieces of content).

Claim 13 corresponds to claim 10, where Alexander and Seidman teach that the sending of the demand data feedback to the server comprises sending demand data to the server after demand data related to a first predetermined number of pieces of content have been generated (see the rejection of claim 10 for Seidman teaching sending demand data feedback to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content being generated by setting a time period to collect the viewer profile information and note that since a time period is predetermined by the user, then clearly a predetermined number of pieces of content are generated and then reported to the server/headend within the time period).

Referring to claims 32 and 34-35, see the rejection of claims 10 and 12-13, respectively. Further note that Alexander teaches that the system is implemented on a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon and are executed by a client (see Column 5, Lines 21-53).

Referring to claims 77 and 79, see the rejection of claims 10 and 12, respectively.

4. Claims 11, 33, 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931) in view of Seidman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,482) in further view of Proehl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,990,676).

Referring to claim 11, Alexander discloses that the generation of the demand data comprises consuming previews of the pieces of content (see Column 20, Lines 13-25 for instructing the EPG to display a video clip (preview) about a future-scheduled television program), the generation of demand data responsive to the previews of the pieces of content that are consumed (see again Column 28, Lines 30-52 for recording interactions with the EPG and specifically note Column 28, Lines 44-52 for recording every instruction to record or watch a program and also the EPG recording what is displayed in every window of the EPG user interface before and after a channel change).

Alexander is silent as to the previews being locally stored at the client.

Proehl discloses that previews for future television programs can be locally stored at the client (see Column 14, Line 67 through Column 15, Line 17 and Column 17, Lines 15-25).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the previews, as taught by Alexander and Seidman, using the functionality of storing the previews locally at the client, as taught by Proehl,

for the purpose of avoiding any delay caused by downloading a preview from a server/headend if the user selects additional information for a television program that will be broadcast in the future, thereby allowing a viewer to instantaneously view a preview upon selection by the viewer.

Referring to claim 33, see the rejection of claim 11.

Referring to claim 78, see the rejection of claim 11.

5. Claims 14-15, 36-37, 53, 55-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931) in view of Seidman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,482) in further view of Herz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,758,257).

Referring to claim 14, Alexander and Seidman disclose all of the limitations in claim 10, as well as selecting programs to be included in the viewer profile information sent to the server/headend, but fails to teach ranking the pieces of content.

Herz discloses a viewer profile collection system (see Figure 1), where the user can rank pieces of content (see Column 13, Line 55 through Column 14, Line 34 for ranking a piece of content (with a value of 8) from the movie First Blood, which represents an action section).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify viewer profile collection process, as taught by Alexander and Seidman, using the functionality of ranking the pieces of content, as

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taught by Herz, for the purpose of determining which data sources of those available will have the most appeal to his or her customers (see Column 9, Lines 49-51 of Herz).

Referring to claim 15, see the rejection of claim 14 and further note that ranking a piece of content by assigning a number also constitutes assign a piece of content a rating.

Referring to claims 36-37, see the rejection of claims 14-15, respectively.

Referring to claim 53, Alexander discloses a processor having circuitry to execute instructions (see Column 5, Lines 21-24).

Alexander also discloses a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications interface coupled to receive communications from a server (see Column 5, Lines 46-53 for a display processor that displays the EPG data received from the server (see Column 8, Lines 18-35)). Again note Column 5, Lines 21-24 for the processor controlling (accessing the control functions) the entire system.

Alexander also discloses a storage device coupled to the processor, having executable instructions stored therein (see Column 5, Lines 24-25 for a RAM and ROM).

Alexander also discloses receiving, at a client, content descriptors, which describe pieces of content available for future broadcast from a server (see Column 8, Lines 18-35 for downloading EPG information that provides television program

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information which describes various types of television programs and also note Column 4, Lines 54-56 for the EPG providing television program listings at future times).

Alexander also discloses generating demand data at the client (see Column 28, Lines 30-52 for recording every action a user makes when interacting with an EPG) indicating the relative desirability of the pieces of content described by the content descriptors (the examiner notes that when recording the user interactions (see again Column 28, Lines 30-52) channel changes, time of the channel change and the identification of what programming was displayed after channel change all represent that the demand data (viewer profile information collected) indicates the relative desirability of the pieces of content (television programs) described by the content descriptors (EPG information)).

Alexander also discloses sending demand data feedback from the client to the server after the demand data related to the pieces of content is generated (see Column 29, Lines 14-21 for sending the viewer profile information to the headend (server) of the television system), the demand data feedback to indicate the relative desirability of the pieces of content available for future broadcast (again note that the viewer profile contains information representing user interactions (see again Column 28, Lines 30-52) such as channel changes, time of the channel change and the identification of what programming was displayed after channel change, which all represent that the demand data feedback (viewer profile information collected and transmitted back to the headend) indicates the relative desirability of the pieces of content (television programs) described by the content descriptors (EPG information)).

Although Alexander discloses that viewer profile information can be transmitted from the client to the server (see Column 29, Lines 14-21) and that the viewer profile information is updated on an ongoing basis (see Column 29, Lines 23-24), Alexander fails to teach sending the demand data feedback from the client to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content is generated.

Seidman discloses a viewer profile information collection process similar to Alexander (see Column 6, Lines 1-8). The collection process additionally provides the functionality of reporting the viewer profile to the headend after a predetermined amount of time (see Column 6, Lines 38-44), therefore, Seidman clearly teaches sending demand data feedback from the client to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content is generated, where the predetermined amount is the amount of demand data (viewer profile information) collected in the predetermined time period.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the demand data collection and transmission process, as taught by Alexander, using the process of determining a predetermined amount of content generated in a predetermined time period, as taught by Seidman, for the purpose of allowing a headend to further determine the status of the user's equipment and to diagnose problems (see Column 6, Lines 57-59 of Seidman).

Alexander and Seidman fail to teach ranking the pieces of content.

Herz discloses a viewer profile collection system (see Figure 1), where the user can rank pieces of content (see Column 13, Line 55 through Column 14, Line 34 for

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ranking a piece of content (with a value of 8) from the movie First Blood, which represents an action section).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify viewer profile collection process, as taught by Alexander and Seidman, using the functionality of ranking the pieces of content, as taught by Herz, for the purpose of determining which data sources of those available will have the most appeal to his or her customers (see Column 9, Lines 49-51 of Herz).

Claim 55 corresponds to claim 53, where Alexander teaches that the generation of demand data related to the pieces of content described by the content descriptors (see the rejection of claim 10) comprises receiving explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content (see Column 28, Lines 30-52 for the user changing a channel or any interaction with the EPG, which all represent an explicit user input regarding the specific pieces of content).

Claim 56 corresponds to claim 53, where Alexander and Seidman teach that the sending of the demand data feedback to the server comprises sending demand data to the server after demand data related to a first predetermined number of pieces of content have been generated (see the rejection of claim 10 for Seidman teaching sending demand data feedback to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content being generated by setting a time period to collect the viewer profile information and note that since a time period is predetermined

by the user, then clearly a predetermined number of pieces of content are generated and then reported to the server/headend within the time period).

6. Claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931) in view of Seidman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,482) in further view of Herz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,758,257) in further view of Proehl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,990,676).

Referring to claim 54, Alexander, Seidman and Herz disclose all of the limitations of claim 53, as well as Alexander teaching that the generation of the demand data comprises consuming previews (a portion of the pieces of content) of the pieces of content (see Column 20, Lines 13-25 for instructing the EPG to display a video clip (preview) about a future-scheduled television program), the generation of demand data responsive to the previews of the pieces of content that are consumed (see again Column 28, Lines 30-52 for recording interactions with the EPG and specifically note Column 28, Lines 44-52 for recording every instruction to record or watch a program and also the EPG recording what is displayed in every window of the EPG user interface before and after a channel change).

Alexander is silent as to the previews (portion of the pieces of content) being locally stored at the client.

Proehl discloses that previews for future television programs can be locally stored at the client (see Column 14, Line 67 through Column 15, Line 17 and Column 17, Lines 15-25).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the previews, as taught by Alexander and Seidman, using the functionality of storing the previews locally at the client, as taught by Proehl, for the purpose of avoiding any delay caused by downloading a preview from a server/headend if the user selects additional information for a television program that will be broadcast in the future, thereby allowing a viewer to instantaneously view a preview upon selection by the viewer.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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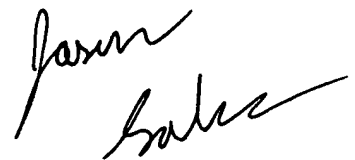
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Salce whose telephone number is (571) 272-7301. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason P Salce
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2614

February 24, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Salce", is written over the typed name and title.